

Capsule Summary

Underdown Cottage
3210 Langston Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland

c. 1910

Private Residence

The Underdown cottage is a colonial style house with an L shaped plan. It is finished with a mixture of shingle siding and aluminum siding where the enclosed porch has been modernized. The house has a gable roof and rests on a pier foundation. It is located in the historically black town of Highland Beach and it is an example of the quality and value that was assigned to building construction in this era.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Underdown Cottage (The Shack)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3210 Langston Ave.

1

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Highland Beach

— VICINITY OF Annapolis

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Anne Arundel

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Welker and Alice Underdown

Telephone #: 267-6057

STREET & NUMBER

3210 Langston Ave

CITY, TOWN

Highland Beach

— VICINITY OF Annapolis

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

Land Records Room

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: GW 43

Folio #: 140

STREET & NUMBER

Anne Arundel County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AA-828

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Underdown Cottage is a colonial styled house with an L shaped plan. The house is two storeys high and has a gable roof. A modernized, enclosed porch encircles three views of the house and it is finished with aluminum siding and shingles.

The Underdown Cottage is located in Highland Beach which is situated about ten miles south of Annapolis. The house is located on a block which is bounded by Bay Avenue on the north, Langston Avenue on the east, Douglass Avenue to the south and Bruce Avenue on the west. The topography of the lot is covered with dense vegetation in a woodlike setting. The sand and water of the Chesapeake Bay can be observed from the eastern view of the house which is oriented towards this area.

This cottage is a large house which rests on a pier foundation. The porch encircles three sides of the house and is entered via a doorway which is constructed with a solid wooden door with three geometrically positioned lights. The aluminum and plexiglass porch enclosure is a modern improvement to the house while the second storey shingles retain their originality. A stovepipe can be observed in the corner of the L of the second storey roof on this house.

The windows are double hung with six lights over a single pane and the trim is painted a contrasting color which complements the color of the eaves of the gable roof. Roofing shingles have been laid in alternate rows with staggered butts.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Highland Beach, Maryland is a historic black town that was founded by the son of Frederick Douglass. The town was conceived by Haley R. Douglass in the late nineteenth century to be a resort community for prominent blacks. Highland Beach is a unique existing reminder of town planning and architectural history as it relates to vernacular and high style design as exhibited by black people. Most of the architecture in Highland Beach is located on the original sites and building expansions were performed within a ten to fifteen year time frame. This provides us with a concise history of design, space planning, and architecture in a homogeneous, extant community.

All of the cottages that were constructed prior to 1930 are important elements related to town planning and design. It is important that these houses retain their originality in terms of plan design, lot orientation, interior decoration, and architectural aesthetics in order to preserve the concept of space and the dynamics of community development in this historic black town.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(Please see "Highland Beach Settlement " survey form).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Section 4. Lots 1,2, Highland Beach.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Collins Turner

ORGANIZATION

Morgan State University

June, 1982

DATE

444-3225

STREET & NUMBER

Center for Built Environment Studies

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

21239

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



AA 828 Underdown House
3210 Langston Avenue
Highland, Beach, Maryland



AA 828 Underdown House
3210 Langston Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland
General View
Fern Eisner, Photographer
March, 1982